

Summary of ESSER Funding and Related State Appropriations

As part of the recent actions from the federal government, Michigan was allocated nearly \$1.7 billion through the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER Fund). This funding is distributed in two buckets:

- 90% (\$1.5 billion) is required by law to be distributed to schools based on their **proportionate share of funding received under Part A of Title I** of the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (*which is federal funding awarded to schools based on levels of poverty*)
 - Districts have significant flexibility in how they may use ESSER funding including
 - Preventing, preparing for, and responding to COVID-19,
 - Addressing learning loss,
 - Preparing schools for reopening, and
 - Testing, repairing, and upgrading projects to improve air quality in school buildings
- The law allows for discretion on the remaining 10% (\$165 million) of funding to schools. The law allows the department to retain 0.5% of total funds for administration and oversight purposes (\$8.3 million), which leaves \$157 million available for discretionary purposes.
- To augment the amount received by districts, an additional \$300 million in School Aid Fund dollars would be appropriated along with the discretionary \$157 million, to help schools meet the Governor's goal of providing every student with an in-person learning opportunity by March 1, and to help address the learning loss that has occurred due to the pandemic.
 - Half of the funding would be distributed to districts based on the number of special education full-time-equated pupils in the district in 2020-2021 and
 - Half would be distributed on an equal per pupil basis, with a guarantee that no district receives less than \$25,000.
 - Districts could use the funds for the same allowable uses under the ESSER formula grants.
 - \$10 million would be sent to intermediate school districts.

Federal law requires a report on how the State is using funds to measure and address learning loss among students disproportionately affected by coronavirus and school closures, including low-income students, children with disabilities, English learners, racial and ethnic minorities, students experiencing homelessness, and children and youth in foster care.